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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/497,021	02/01/2000	Gregg S. Goyins	10992292-1	6980

22879 7590 07/16/2003

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FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

ZAMANI, ALI A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2674

DATE MAILED: 07/16/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/497,021

Applicant(s)

GOYINS ET AL.

Examiner

Ali A. Zamani

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 March 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by anticipated by Helbing (US Pat. No. 6,198,523 B1).

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention “by another,” or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

In regard to claims 1, 13, 17, 20 and 24, Helbing discloses a switchable polarizing apparatus for optical projection displays, said apparatus comprising: a first electrode (13) for receiving a first driving signal, and a second electrode (17) for receiving a second driving signal (col. 4, lines 5-7), wherein the first and second driving signals are different; a layer of liquid crystal material (21) positioned between the first and second electrodes (13 and 17); a first current source switchably coupled to the first electrode, said first current source for drawing a first current through the first electrode; a second current source switchably coupled to the second electrode, said second current source for drawing a second current through the second electrode, said second current being equal in magnitude to the first current (see Figs 7A); and a buffer circuit coupled to the first and second electrodes, said buffer circuit applying the driving voltage signals to the first and second electrodes, said driving sustaining the first and second currents through the electrodes (see Figs 10A, 10B and 11) which all function as claimed.

In regard to claims 2-5 and 21-27, Helbing teaches that the switchable polarizer of claim 1, wherein the current passing through the first electrode is equal in magnitude to the current passing through the second electrode and the current passing through the first and second electrodes are constant and during a heating operation, the first and second electrodes apply a uniform electric field across the liquid crystal material (see Fig. 9-10, col. 18, lines 16-40).

As to claim 6, Helbing teaches that during a non-heating operation of the polarizer, no current passes through either electrode (see Fig. 10A).

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In regard to claims 7-11, Helbing discloses the first and second electrodes are transparent electrodes (col. 4, lines 7-8) and the first electrode receives a first voltage signal and the second electrode receives a second voltage signal (see Figs 9 and 10).

As to claim 12, Helbing discloses the switchable polarizer is a polarizing switch of various types of video and graphics display devices that are small enough to be integrated into a helmet or a pair of glasses so that they can be worn by the user (col. 1, lines 13-16).

In regard to claims 14-19 and 22-23 and 28, Helbing discloses the current through the electrodes includes coupling the electrodes to two current sources and applying of the voltage signals to the electrodes includes coupling each electrode to an output of an amplifier (see Fig. 11).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ali Zamani whose telephone number is (703) 308-6414. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard A. Hjerpe, can be reached on (703) 305-4709.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, DC 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

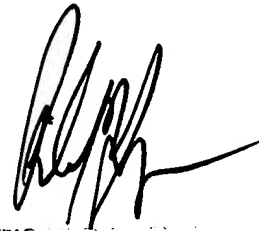
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Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive,
Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding
should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone
number is (703) 306-0377.

Ali Zamani

July 08-03

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ali Zamani', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.A faint, circular stamp or seal, possibly a library or archival mark, located below the signature.